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	Y AS WILL TAKE SEVERAL DI	4
GET RETURNS SO	FAR NO INFORMATION OF "	
MILITIA/ GUERRILLA ORGANIZ		1
SPECIFICALLY	FROM CHUONG THIEN PROVINC	E. OB NUMBERS 3.3(h)(2)
PROBLEM MORE COMPLEX EVEN	THAN REFERENCE SUGGESTS.	2.2(h)(2)
2.	SPEAK OF CONSOLIDATING	3.3(h)(2)
AND VILLAGE GUERRILLAS BU	T DO NOT MENTION MILITIA.	3.3(h)(2)
MENTIONS "PART-TIME" GUER		TS TELL
OF BREAKING GUERRILLA UNI	201	GIVING
THEM SPECIAL TRAINING.		
3. REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER	PROVINCE REPORTS AND REC	CENT 3.3(h)(2)
DOCUMENTS (E.G.		
INDICATE GUERRILLA PROGRA	M BOTH PLANS AND ORGANI	IZATION-
IN STATE OF FLUX THROUGHO	UT COUNTRY AND APPARENTLY	y moving
DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS IN D		

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PAGE TWO SAIGON SECRET 3.5(c)

COMMITTEES BEING GIVEN CONTRADICTORY ORDERS TO ENCOURAGE

MORE GUERRILLAS TO MOVE UP TO MAIN FORCES AND TO STRENGTHEN

GUERRILLA UNITS.

- 4. WE ARE PROBABLY KIDDING OURSELVES IF WE THINK IN

 TERMS OF TWO RATHER UNIFORM AND DISPARATE CLASSES OF IRREGULARS—
 GUERRILLAS AND MILITIA. THE IRREGULAR STRUCTURE APPEARS

 TO HAVE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND TO

 VARY FROM REGION TO REGION, PERHAPS FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE.

 IT IS A ROUGHLY PYRAMIDAL STRUCTURE THE BASE OF WHICH

 DISOLVES INTO THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE UNDER VIET CONG CONTROL

 IN A MANNER THAT MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DRAW A SHARP LINE

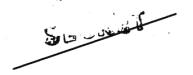
 AND SAY THAT THOSE ON ONE SIDE ARE IRREGULARS AND THE OTHERS

 ARE NOT. SIMILARLY, THOUGH PERHAPS TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE

 EXISTENCE OF "PART-TIME GUERRILLAS" AND, POSSIBLE, FULL-TIME

 MILITIA MAKES THE LINE BETWEEN THESE CATEGORIES A VERY

 FUZZY ONE.
- 5. THE ATTEMPT TO ENUMERATE THE IRREGULARS WITHIN
 PRECISE CATEGORIES IS A SISYPHEAN TASK. THERE WILL ALWAYS
 BE OVERLAPS OR OMISSIONS. THIS SEEMS FAR LESS IMPORTANT
 THAN THE FACT THAT MACV J-2 IS STILL OFFICIALLY CARRYING
 THE RIDICULOUS FAGURE OF 112,760 IRREGULARS, UNCHANGED FOR



PAGE THREE SAIGON SECRET 3.5(c)

OVER A YEAR AND A HALF. AND, IF THEY CHANGE FROM THIS TO

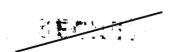
THE FIGURE THAT WAS AGREED AT THE CONFERENCE HERE, 70,000

TO 90,000 GUERRILLAS, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE A GREAT IMPROVEMENT,

THE SPREAD IS TOO NARROW AND PROBABLY SHOULD BE RAISED

CONSIDERABLY ON THE UPPER SIDE.

- OVER WHETHER THE LINE BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND MILITIA HAS BEEN FURTHER FUZZED AND FURTHER INACCURACY ADDED TO ALREADY DUBIOUS GUERRILLA OB FIGURES, WE OUGHT TO STRIVE TO ACHIEVE A WHOLE NEW APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF QUANTIFYING VIET CONG IRREGULAR STRENGTH. I SUGGEST THAT COMMUNIST "PEOPLES FORCES" SHOULD BE THOUGHT OF MORE IN TERMS OF EXPLOITATION OF POPULATION RESOURCES RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF CLASSICAL MILITARY OB. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PROBLEM HANDLED IN TERMS
- 7. THE VIET CONG HAVE ACCESS TO BETWEEN 2.5 MILLION
 AND 3 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY THEY CONTROL PLUS SOME
 IN DISPUTED AND GVN-HELD TERRITORY. THEY CONSIDER ALL OF
 THEM RESOURCES TO BE USED IN WAR. A LARGE PART OF THEM ARE
 DIRECTLY EMPLOYED ON A SPORADIC, PART-TIME, OR FULL-TIME BASIS



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PAGE FOUR SAIGON SECRE

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IN MILITARY AND QUASI-MILITARY ACTIVITIES. PERHAPS AS MANY
AS 100,000 ARE SERVING AS FULL-TIME GUERRILLAS AND AT ANY
GIVEN TIME THERE MAY BE 100,000 OR MORE OF THE OTHERS
STANDING GUARD. BUILDING FORTIFICATIONS, REMOVING WOUNDED
AND DEAD, PERFORMING WOGISTIC SERVICES OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATING
IN THE VC WAR EFFORT. WHAT THEY DO FOR THE VIET CONG IS
LARGELY DONE BY UNIFORMED FULL-TIME TROOPS IN ALLIED FORCES,
WHICH MAKES COMPARISON OF NUMBERS MISLEADING.

8. WILL REPLY BY CABLE AS SOON AS ANSWERS ARE RECIEVED FROM OUR IV CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE AND MACV OB.

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,	OF JULY 1967 "DID AWAY" WITH VC	
	nd 'Consolidated a militia/Guerr	·
TION." REPORTED ORGAN	NIZATION APPEARS TO COMBINE GUE	RRILLAS AND
self-defense militia.	REF A FURTHER STATES THAT "MEN	IBER OF VC TRA
VINH PROVINCE MILITAR	y affairs committee Verifie	d the establish
MENT OF MILITIA/GUERR	illa units." VÇ activities septem	MBER REPORT OF
), commented that "VC appear t	
CONSOLIDATE THEIR LOW		6
2. Because of im	aminent dropping from macv ob c	OF VC SELF-
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DATED "MILITIA/GUERRILLA" UNITS). THESE REPORTS RAISE FOTENTIALLY STICKY BUT FUNDAMENTAL ORDER OF BATTLE. ACCOUNTING PROBLEM. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW WOULD ONE COPE WITH FUT THE REPORT OR DOCUMENT LISTING 10,000 "MILITIA/GUERRILL AS" FROM PROVINCE X. SHOULD THE ENTIRE 10,000 BE EXCLUDED FROM THE OB, OR ALL OF THEM INCLUDED, OR SHOULD ONE MAKE AN ARBITRARY DECISION TO INCLUDE SOME OF THEM AND NOT OTHERS. THE LAST COURSE WOULD RAISE VERY DIFFICULT AND POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL PROBLEMS REGARDING CRITERIA.

- 3. BECAUSE THIS PROBLEM COULD DIRECTLY AFFECT WHOLE OB PICTURE, REQUEST YOU TAKE FOLLOWING STEPS:
 - A. DETERMINE STATE OF EVIDENCE CONCERNING SO-CALLED "MILITIA/GUERRILLA" UNITS (WHETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH EVIDENCE IS CONFINED TO BY CORPS CAS REPORTS).
 - B. INFORM CHIEF OF MACV OB BRANCH OF THE POTENTIAL ACCOUNTING PROBLEM (WHICH HE MAY WELL BE AWARE OF).

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